

Editorial

A message from the new Editor-in-Chief

Infectious diseases is truly an international discipline, and it is a great pleasure and privilege to have the opportunity to take over from Don Armstrong as the new Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Infectious Diseases. It is no understatement to say that the world of infectious diseases in general, and the International Society for Infectious Diseases in particular, owes Don Armstrong an enormous debt of gratitude. It is no mean feat to conceive and produce a new international journal from scratch, and the fact that it has been so successful is almost entirely due to the tireless efforts of Dr Armstrong and his colleagues in New York. I, and the new team of international Corresponding Editors, will certainly do our best to continue and build upon Dr Armstrong's inspiring work.

Several important changes have been made for this issue. First, we have modified slightly the type of papers we will publish. We are keen to focus on the best international reports of clinical and applied science, and these we publish as Original Reports. Case reports have their place but in future we will be looking for evidence that they identify novel associations or report unusual findings that need to be made widely known, and they will appear as Letters to the Editor. We welcome Reviews, both solicited and submitted, and will also publish reviews of books in the field, which we hope will be of interest to our readers. A novel and important new

feature is the ProMed page. Most readers of the Journal will know that the Society also hosts ProMed, an international web-based forum for exchange of up to the minute information about infectious diseases. For those who do not access ProMed regularly we will publish an edited account of highlights and recent topics – and from time to time will publish alongside reviews that relate to these topics. Contributions or suggestions from readers for these pages are always welcome. Finally, the Journal is entering the electronic age and will be available to registered subscribers on the world wide web. This is a critical development in journal publishing and as well as making access easier it has the important function of increasing citations, since electronic searches will readily identify the relevant papers, even if the paper copy is not immediately available. An incoming Editor is traditionally allowed one indulgence, and that is the design of the Journal. I have also made some minor changes to the appearance of the text, all of which are designed to make it easier to read and to extract the information that you need. I hope you like the new design, but more importantly, I hope you will find the information in the Journal timely and relevant to your practice, and I hope that you and colleagues will continue to send us your best papers. We look forward to publishing them.

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